



# How to look after your Brass Instrument

<b>Instruments covered in this guide:</b>	<b>Trumpet</b>	<b>French Horn</b>
	<b>Cornet</b>	<b>Baritone</b>
	<b>Trombone</b>	<b>Tuba</b>

We hope you are enjoying playing your new instrument. Below you will find advice on how to care for your instrument and what to do if it breaks.

Do not try to play your instrument before your first lesson, it is very fragile and could get broken.

## CARING FOR THE INSTRUMENT

- Always take care when putting the instrument together. Your teacher will show you how.
- Never leave your instrument next to a radiator, in direct sunlight or in a very cold or damp place.
- Always put the instrument away immediately after you have finished playing it.
- Never force an instrument into its case or force the lid to close, and always make sure the case is properly closed before moving it, otherwise the instrument may fall out.
- Before returning the instrument to its case, blow through the instrument with the spit valve open a few times to remove any moisture.
- The outside of the instrument can be polished with a clean duster to remove fingerprints.
- If a valve becomes stuck, take the instrument to your teacher for assistance.

### Trombone

- If your Trombone slide becomes sticky, remove the outer slide and wipe clean regularly, apply a small amount of slide cream/oil (not Vaseline) to the tip of the inner slide, and spray the rest of the inner slide with water. Put the slide back into position and slide in and out a few times. Do this as often as necessary.

### The Mouthpiece

- Never force the mouthpiece into the instrument.
- Do not tap or push the mouthpiece when it is in the instrument, as it can get stuck easily.
- If your mouthpiece becomes stuck, ask a parent/carer for help. **DO NOT USE PLIERS OR ANY TOOLS.** If it does not come out using your hands, please speak to your teacher about getting it removed. If the instrument is an EMS hire instrument, you may contact EMS office to arrange for it to be removed. The instrument will not fit inside your case, so it is vital that you wrap the instrument in a towel to protect it and place it in a secure bag for travel.
- It is good practice to clean your mouthpiece once a month. Place it in a cup of hot water to help sterilization. It is possible to buy a small mouthpiece brush to assist in its cleaning.

## REPAIRS

For EMS rented instruments	For personally owned instruments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If your instrument stops working properly or you have an accident with it, do not try to repair it yourself. Show your teacher at your next lesson and they will either mend it for you or fill in a repair slip for you to take to EMS with the instrument. This may incur a charge.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If your instrument stops working properly or you have an accident with it, do not try to repair it yourself. Show your teacher at your next lesson and they may be able to mend it for you. They will be able to give you advice on how and where to get it repaired. There are also some ideas on the <a href="http://www.ealingmusicservice.com">EMS website</a>.</li> </ul>

The EMS website has lots of information regarding the EMS Instrument Hire Scheme, Music Events in Ealing, Ensembles available to join in the borough and advice on practicing.